

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1183
By Sontany

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the Reverend Joseph Breen upon the celebration of his twentieth anniversary at St. Edward's Parish in Nashville.

WHEREAS, those of our fellow citizens who have found a vocation in the priesthood and who have devoted years to study and dedicated their lives to serving God and humanity make a vital contribution to the spiritual welfare of their charges and to a healthful moral climate in our society; the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those outstanding clergymen as they celebrate significant milestones in their ministries; and

WHEREAS, one such remarkable Tennessean is the Reverend Joseph P. Breen, who on June 26, 2004, will celebrate twenty years of devoted and productive service at St. Edward's Parish in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, a Nashville native, Joseph Breen was born one of nine children of the late Paul and Anna Nenon Breen; his siblings are Philip M. Breen, Pastor of St. Ann Parish in Nashville; Paul Breen; Hugh Breen; Thomas Breen; the late William Breen; Mary Joe Breen Beavin; Ann Breen Treadway; and Dorothy Breen Williams; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Breen attended Christ the King School and graduated from Father Ryan High School; he earned a bachelor's degree from St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Iowa in 1958 and entered the North American College in Rome later that year to pursue graduate studies in theology; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ann Breen had long expressed the hope that at least one of her sons would enter the priesthood, and happily, she was appropriately rewarded when two sons responded to a call to that vocation; Joseph P. Breen was ordained a priest on December 20, 1961 at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome; and

WHEREAS, later in his career, the Reverend Breen returned to Rome to continue his studies in theology at the Gregorian University, and was granted a license in sacred theology; and

WHEREAS, following ordination Father Breen served briefly at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, and in 1962 he was assigned to Holy Rosary Parish in Memphis, where he served as an instructor at Christian Brothers High School and also filled posts at Millington and Bartlett; and

WHEREAS, in 1966 the Reverend Breen transferred to Chattanooga, where he was pastor of St. Peter and St. Paul Parish and an instructor at Notre Dame High School; in 1969 he assumed the pastorate of St. Therese of Lisieux Parish in Cleveland, Tennessee and of its missions in Copperhill and Athens; and

WHEREAS, in 1974 Father Breen was named pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, in 1984 the Reverend Breen was named pastor of St. Edward's Parish in Nashville, where, for the past two decades he has faithfully served God and his parishioners with much zeal and great affection; and

WHEREAS, Father Breen attributes much of his guidance as he prepared for his vocation to his parents, especially his mother; his uncle, Father Tom Nenon; and his mentor at Christ the King, Father Joe Leppert; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to specially recognize this outstanding clergyman and beloved pastor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the parishioners of St. Edward's Parish, his family and many friends in both the laity and clergy in celebrating Father Joseph Breen's twenty years of fruitful service to God and humanity at St. Edward's Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our thanks to the Reverend Breen for his faithfulness to his calling throughout his years in preparation for and service in the priesthood

and offer him our best wishes for every success and satisfaction in all his future endeavors and much happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.